

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1 and 2 in accordance with the following:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for regenerating ~~thea~~ NOx catalyst in a NOx purifying system having a direct reduction type NOx catalyst provided in thean exhaust passage ~~with a direct reduction type NOx catalyst whichand~~ directly decomposes~~decomposing~~ the NOx during a lean condition operation and isbeing regenerated during a rich condition operation, comprising ~~the step of,~~ prohibiting ~~thea~~ rich condition control when the temperature detected by a catalyst temperature detecting ~~meansdetector~~ is greater than a set temperature which is within a predetermined temperature range of between 400°C and 500°C.
2. (Currently Amended) A NOx purifying system direct reduction type NOx catalyst provided in ~~thean~~ exhaust gas passage ~~with a direct reduction type NOx catalyst whichand~~ directly decomposesing the NOx in the exhaust gas during a lean condition operation and isbeing regenerated during a rich condition operation, comprisingwhich comprises a catalyst temperature detecting ~~meansdetector~~, and a control device for controlling to prohibit ~~thea~~ rich condition control when the temperature detected by ~~saidthe~~ catalyst temperature detecting ~~meansdetector~~ is greater than a set temperature which is within a predetermined temperature range of between 400°C and 500°C.
3. (New) A method for regenerating a direct reduction type NOx catalyst provided in an exhaust passage, comprising:
detecting the direct reduction type NOx catalyst temperature; and
regenerating the NOx while performing a rich condition operation only when the detected temperature is less than a set temperature which is between 400°C and 500°C.

4. (New) A NOx purifying system having a direct reduction type NOx catalyst provided in an exhaust passage, comprising:
- a catalyst temperature detector detecting a temperature of the direct reduction type NOx catalyst; and
 - a control device causing a rich condition control to be performed only when the temperature detected by the catalyst temperature detector is less than a set temperature which is between 400°C and 500°C.